



Superfund
Redevelopment
Initiative

SITE REDEVELOPMENT PROFILE

Woolfolk Chemical Works, Inc. Superfund Site
Fort Valley, Georgia



The Fort Valley Festival Park. (Source: EPA)

Site Location: East Main Street, Fort Valley, Georgia

Size: 31 acres (18-acre former Woolfolk Chemical Works facility property and nearby properties)

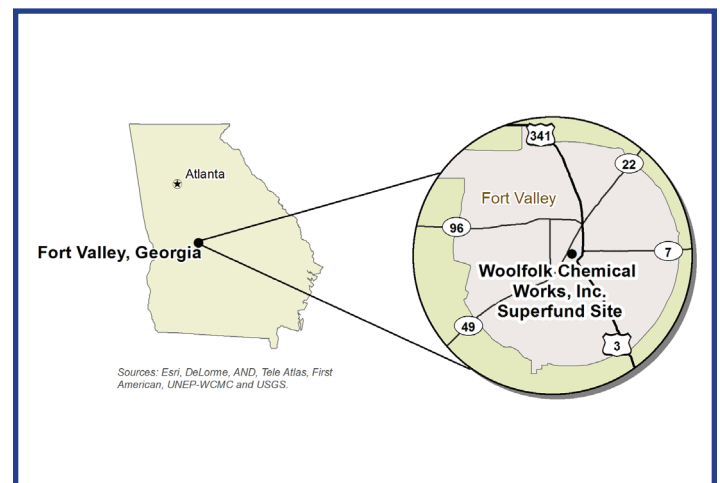
Existing Site Infrastructure: All major types of infrastructure are located on site.

Current Site Uses: Thomas Public Library, Fort Valley Welcome Center, an adult education center, paved and open-space areas, Fort Valley Festival Park, bus parking lots, and commercial and residential areas are located on site.

Use Restrictions: Potable use of shallow groundwater is prohibited. Residential use and land uses that could impact capped areas are not permitted on certain areas of the site.

Surrounding Population: within 0.5 mile, 953 people; within 2.5 miles, 10,991 people; within 4 miles, 13,270 people.

Through close collaboration with the community and local stakeholders, EPA is helping support the cleanup and reuse of the 31-acre Woolfolk Chemical Works, Inc. site in Fort Valley, Georgia. Fort Valley is located about 100 miles south of Atlanta. Pesticides used in daily operations at the Woolfolk Chemical Plant contaminated soil and underlying groundwater, resulting in the site's placement on the Superfund program's National Priorities List (NPL) in 1990. Cleanup included groundwater treatment, capping of some contaminated materials, excavation and treatment of contaminated soils and sediments, and decontamination and demolition of affected infrastructure.




Location of the site in Fort Valley, Georgia.

In 1997, concerned Fort Valley citizens, elected officials, state legislative representatives, EPA, state and county health representatives, and local business owners formed the Woolfolk Alliance. This group met regularly to discuss the site's status and share cleanup updates with the community. In

2002, a pilot grant from EPA's Superfund Redevelopment Initiative supported community reuse planning efforts for the 18-acre former

Woolfolk Chemical Works facility in downtown Fort

SITE HISTORY AND REDEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

- 
- 1910** Companies began producing, packaging, and storing herbicides and pesticides on site.
 - 1990** EPA added the site to the NPL.
 - 1997** The Woolfolk Alliance formed.
 - 1998** Remedy construction finished.
 - 2002** Fort Valley received pilot funding from EPA's Superfund Redevelopment Initiative to explore reuse.
 - 2007** The Woolfolk Alliance engaged with EPA to update site reuse plans.
 - 2009** EPA presented its Excellence in Site Reuse Award to the community.
 - 2011** Peach County and Houston County public health staff received EPA's Notable Achievement Award.
 - 2012** Fort Valley Festival Park opened on site.
 - 2013** Playground added to Fort Valley Festival Park.

Valley. The city used the funding to conduct a study and report to EPA on the most likely future uses of the site. EPA also sought the views of local residents to inform the development of site cleanup plans. After extensive discussions, the community decided that a library would best benefit the town. A Prospective Purchaser Agreement with EPA enabled the city to build a library and literacy center on site. In return, the city agreed to use the land responsibly and provide cleanup access to site areas.

Canadyne-Georgia, the site's potentially responsible party (PRP), cleaned up the contaminated parcels under EPA's oversight, transferred them to the state of Georgia for reuse, and contributed funds to support redevelopment efforts. At the community's request, the Troutman House, a once-contaminated antebellum farmhouse, was converted into a Welcome Center and office space for the Fort Valley Chamber of Commerce. Fort Valley is reusing another former residence nearby as an adult education center. EPA also supported additional reuse planning for the site in 2007. This effort updated the community's reuse plans to reflect changes in the site's remedy.

In recognition of the local government's proactive engagement and support of reuse, EPA presented the city of Fort Valley with Region 4's Excellence in Site Reuse Award in 2009. Two years later, public health staff from Peach County and Houston County who were members of the Woolfolk Alliance received EPA's Notable Achievement Award for demonstrating a sustained and thorough understanding of environmental justice concerns and assisting in providing opportunities for the Woolfolk community to play a meaningful role in the environmental decision-making process.

Building on the reuse planning projects for the site, the Woolfolk Alliance and EPA have continued to work together closely to support site reuses that benefit the community. Fort Valley Festival Park opened on site in 2012 and is a major tourism draw for the area. The Fort Valley Public Works Department also built a community playground on site in 2013. Lease fees for bus parking on a paved part of the site help raise funds for future development. Private properties, including homes, that were impacted by fill contamination have been cleaned up and remain in use. Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks and a station are located on the northwest part of the site.



The Troutman House. (Source: EPA)



The Fort Valley Festival Park. (Source: EPA)



Bus parking at the site. (Source: EPA)



The Thomas Public Library. (Source: EPA)

“Many of us have been working on this project since the beginning 12 years ago. By meeting together, sharing our feelings, eating lunch together, being aware of some of the personal and family issues of those attending, we established a community. That relationship has helped us solve our problems and built trust through what is, in the best of times, a very difficult process. There will be life after Superfund here.”

– John Stumbo, Former Mayor, Fort Valley, Georgia

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Melissa Friedland | (703) 603-8864
friedland.melissa@epa.gov

Frank Avvisato | (703) 603-8949
avvisato.frank@epa.gov

Scott Miller | (404) 562-9120
miller.scott@epa.gov



In May 2017, EPA established a task force to restore the Superfund program to its rightful place at the center of the Agency's core mission to protect health and the environment.

epa.gov/superfund/superfund-task-force